

Appln. No.: 10/671,350
Amdt. dated June 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 23, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended in paragraph 0006 to include the term "bead" as an alternative to the term "sump".

Claim 9 has been amended to address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As amended, claim 9 makes clear that the combustion chamber edging (ref. 3, 15, 16) is located around the combustion openings (ref. 2) and contains a soft iron ring (ref. 17), and that the at least partially limiting elements (ref. 5) are provided at an edge of the spacing layer (ref. 6). The term "sump" has been replaced with the term "bead" to be more consistent with standard terminology in the industry.

The rejection of claim 9 over Weigert in view of Ito is respectfully traversed.

Weigert fails to teach or suggest the provision of the at least partially limiting elements (ref. 5) of claim 9 at the edge of the spacing layer. It is clear from the drawings (and particularly Figures 1 and 3) that no such limiting elements are present. Ito, likewise, fails to teach or suggest the at least partially limiting elements of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 9 distinguishes Applicants' invention patentability over Weigert in view of Ito and should be allowed.

The amendments to the remaining claims are made to be consistent with the changes to claim 9. The remaining claims are dependent, ultimately, on claim 9 and are believed allowable for the same reasons of claim 9.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for examination on the merits. Favorable action is requested.

Appln. No.: 10/671,350

Amdt. dated June 23, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 23, 2005

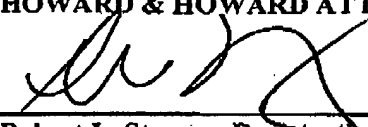
The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to
Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

June 23, 2005

Date



Robert L. Stearns, Registration No. 36,937
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101
39400 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151
(248) 723-0427